

## **Robert Hughes**

### **Curriculum Vitae**

Phone: 310-696-1122 (c)  
Email: robert.c.hughes@gmail.com

2620 16<sup>th</sup> St NW #103  
Washington, DC 20009

### **Employment**

Department of Bioethics, National Institutes of Health. Fellow, September 2010 to present.

### **Education**

UCLA. Ph.D. in Philosophy with Specialization in Law and Philosophy, June 2010.

Harvard University. A.B. with High Honors in Philosophy, June 2001.

### **Dissertation**

#### *Governing the Good*

Many attempt to advocate limits on government authority by arguing for limits on governmental coercion. To show that such reasoning is suspect, I argue that a society of morally good people would need public legislation and public adjudication of disputes. It would thus need law and political authority, properly so-called, but it would need no coercive enforcement mechanism, and it would lack any entitlement to establish one. This argument calls into question coercion-oriented criticisms of legislation since the authorization to coerce is not a fundamental aspect of legislation or governmental authority.

Committee: Seana Shiffrin (chair), Barbara Herman, Calvin Normore, Joshua Dienstag

### **Areas of Specialization**

Political Philosophy, Philosophy of Law, Ethics, Bioethics

### **Areas of Competence**

Philosophy of Action, History of Political Philosophy

### **Further Teaching Interests**

Kant, Introduction to Philosophy

### **Publications**

“Law and the Entitlement to Coerce.” Accepted for inclusion in *The Nature of Law: Contemporary Perspectives*, Wil Waluchow and Stefan Sciaraffa, eds., pending with Oxford University Press.

**Submitted Papers and Works in Progress**

- “Individual Risk and Community Benefit in International Research.” Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Medical Ethics*.
- “A Moral Interest in Responsive Government.” Submitted.
- “Law and Coercion.” Work in progress. Commissioned for *Philosophy Compass*.
- “Authoritative Adjudication in Trusting Relationships.” Work in progress.
- “Responsive Government and the Relationship of Authority.” Work in progress.

**Presentations**

- “A Moral Interest in Democracy”  
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, poster presentation, August 2011.  
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, April 2011.
- “Maintaining Values through Political Activity”  
Comments on Matthew Smith's “Political Obligation and the Self.”  
Rocky Mountain Ethics Congress, August 2011.
- “Law and the Entitlement to Coerce”  
McMaster University Philosophy of Law Conference, poster presentation, May 2011.
- “International Law and Political Obligation”  
Comments on Anthony Reeves's “The Authority of Law in Nascent Legal Systems.”  
McMaster University Philosophy of Law Conference, May 2011.
- “Do Saints Need Contract?”  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual National Conference, April 2010.
- “Mandatory Forgiveness”  
Comments on Kristin Bell's “Forgiveness as an Alternate Response to Wrongdoing.”  
American Philosophical Association Pacific Division Meeting, April 2009.
- “Governing Without Coercion”  
Northwestern Society for Ethical and Political Theory, First Annual Conference, May 2007.
- “Explaining When Actions Happen”  
Comments on Neal Tognazzini's “Four-Dimensional Agent Causation.”  
UCLA-USC Graduate Conference, February 2006.
- “Self-ownership and Coercion”  
American Philosophical Association Eastern Division Meeting, December 2005.  
Berkeley-Stanford-Davis Graduate Conference in Philosophy, April 2005.

**Awards**

Distinguished Teaching Award, Department of Philosophy. 2009.

Yost Prize for Excellence in Teaching. Awarded to a fourth-year graduate student in philosophy. May 2007.

**Teaching Experience**

Training Instructor, NIH, 2011

Co-teaching research ethics modules in training sessions for clinical research nurses.

Primary Instructor

“Do Good People Need Government?” Lower-division undergraduate seminar, Spring 2009.

History of Political Philosophy (Rousseau, Kant, Hegel, Marx). Upper-division lecture course, Summer 2008.

History of Political Philosophy (Hobbes, Locke, Hume, Rousseau). Upper-division lecture course, Summer 2007.

TA Consultant, 2007-2008

Taught Philosophy 495, Teaching College Philosophy, for new teaching assistants.

Teaching Assistant, Upper Division

Moral Responsibility and Free Will (Pamela Hieronymi), Winter 2009 and Fall 2005.

Topics in Ethical Theory: Normative Ethics (Seana Shiffrin), Spring 2008.

History of Greek Philosophy (David Ebrey), Summer 2006.

History of Ethics: Kant (Barbara Herman), Winter 2006.

History of Modern Philosophy, 1650 to 1800 (Larry Fike), Summer 2005.

Teaching Assistant, Lower Division

Introduction to Political Philosophy (A.J. Julius), Fall 2008.

Introduction to Ethical Theory (Julie Tannenbaum), Spring 2006.

Beginnings of Western Philosophy (Sean Kelsey), Spring 2005.

Introduction to Philosophy of Science (Chris Smeenk), Winter 2005.

Introduction to Ethical Theory (Pamela Hieronymi), Fall 2004.

**Service**

Fellow on Call, NIH Ethics Consult Service, 2011-present (rotating schedule).

Referee, UCLA-USC Graduate Conference, 2005-2008.

Graduate Student Representative to the Philosophy Department faculty, 2006-2007.

Graduate Student Association Representative, 2005-2006.

**Coursework at UCLA** (graduate philosophy courses except where noted)

Constitutional Law (Law School)	Jonathan Varat
Free Speech Theory	Seana Shiffrin
Contract Law (Law School)	Seana Shiffrin
Philosophy of Law	Mark Greenberg
Scanlon's <i>What We Owe To Each Other</i>	Pamela Hieronymi
Marx	Barbara Herman and Gavin Lawrence
Topics in Legal Theory	Seana Shiffrin
Moral Remedies	Barbara Herman and Seana Shiffrin
Hegel's <i>Elements of the Philosophy of Right</i>	Barbara Herman
Nagel's <i>The Possibility of Altruism</i>	Seana Shiffrin
Philosophy of Action	Pamela Hieronymi
Practical Reason	Gavin Lawrence
Philosophy of Mind: Anti-individualism	Mark Greenberg
Medieval Philosophy (undergraduate)	Calvin Normore
Kant's Ethics	Barbara Herman
Greek Philosophy (undergraduate)	Sean Kelsey
First-year Seminar: History of Analytic Philosophy	Joseph Almog and John Carriero
Wittgenstein	Andrew Hsu
Early Modern Philosophy (undergraduate)	John Carriero
First-year Seminar: 20th-century Metaethics	Barbara Herman
Perception	Tyler Burge
Metalogic (undergraduate)	Tony Martin
First-year Seminar: History of Analytic Philosophy	Tyler Burge
Rawls's <i>Theory of Justice</i>	Seana Shiffrin
Kant (undergraduate)	Tyler Burge

**Courses Audited**

Kant's <i>Critique of Practical Reason</i>	Barbara Herman
Coercion	A.J. Julius
Kant's "Transcendental Dialectic"	Charles Parsons
Aristotle's <i>Nicomachean Ethics</i>	Gavin Lawrence
History of Political Philosophy (undergraduate)	Hans Lottenbach

## **Grants and Fellowships**

Dissertation Year Fellowship, 2009-2010.

Pauley Fellowship, 2006-2007.

UCLA Alumni Association Mentoring Fellowship, Fall 2006.

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship, Summer 2004.

Pauley Fellowship, 2003-2004.

## **Non-academic Employment**

Paralegal Specialist. United States Department of Justice Computer Crime and Intellectual Property Section. 2001-2003. Assisted attorneys with legal research, preparation of evidence, and workload tracking.

## **References**

Seana Shiffrin, Philosophy, UCLA. shiffrin@humnet.ucla.edu

Barbara Herman, Philosophy, UCLA. herman@humnet.ucla.edu

Calvin Normore, Philosophy, UCLA. normore@humnet.ucla.edu

Mark Greenberg, Philosophy, UCLA. mdg@humnet.ucla.edu

Joseph Almog, Philosophy, UCLA. almog@humnet.ucla.edu (teaching reference)

Alan Wertheimer, Bioethics, NIH. wertheimera@cc.nih.gov